#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**JUNE 30, 2009** 

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. Acopy of the report has been submitted to the entity and other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

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# LOUISIANA SHERIFFS' LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS JUNE 30, 2009

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Independent Auditors' Report	1 - 2
Management's Discussion and Analysis	3 - 5
<u>Financial Statements</u>	
Statements of Net Assets	6
Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets	7
Statements of Cash Flows	8
Notes to Financial Statements	9 - 18
Supplemental Information	
Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in	
Accordance with Government Auditing Standards	19 – 20
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs	21
Schedule of Prior Year Audit Findings	22



#### **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

Board of Managers Louisiana Sheriffs' Law Enforcement Program Baton Rouge, Louisiana

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets of Louisiana Sheriffs' Law Enforcement Program (a quasi-public organization) (the Program) as of June 30, 2009 and August 31, 2008, and the related statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net assets, and cash flows for the period from September 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 and for the year ended August 31, 2008. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Program's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and with Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Louisiana Sheriffs' Law Enforcement Program as of June 30, 2009 and August 31, 2008, and the changes in its financial position, and its cash flows for the period and year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Management's discussion and analysis on pages 3 through 5 is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted primarily of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

The Program has not presented certain historical information related to its insurance activities, including premium and investment revenues, unallocated claim adjustment expenses and other costs, and incurred claims and allocated claim adjustment expenses. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined that this information is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the basic financial statements.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued a report, dated December 9, 2009, on our consideration of the Program's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Pathwaite & Nethenble

December 9, 2009

## MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (UNAUDITED)

The Management's Discussion and Analysis of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Law Enforcement Program's (the Program), financial performance presents a narrative overview and analysis of the Program's financial activities for the period from September 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 and for the year ended August 31, 2008. This document focuses on the current period's activities, resulting changes, and currently known facts in comparison with the prior year's information. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with the Program's financial statements, which follow this section.

#### Financial Highlights

- The Board of Managers changed the fiscal year end of the Program from August 31<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> of each
  year, in order to coincide with respective year end of the majority of its members.
- The assets of the Program exceeded its liabilities at June 30, 2009 by \$8,912,652 compared to \$7,009,374 as of August 31, 2008, which is a 27% increase from the previous year.
- At June 30, 2009, the Program's assets totaled \$19,147,391, which consisted primarily of cash and short-term investments in certificates of deposit and receivables from members and the excess carrier.
- The Program reported gross earned premiums of \$5,437,075 during the period from September 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 and an increase in net assets of \$1,903,278.
- At the end of the current fiscal year, net assets totaled \$8,912,652 or 225% of the current year expenses.

#### Overview of the Financial Statements

This financial report consists of Management's Discussion and Analysis and the basic financial statements. The basic financial statements also include notes to the financial statements, which explain some of the information in the financial statements in more detail.

The basic financial statements of the Program report information about the Program using accounting methods similar to those used by private sector businesses. These statements offer short and long-term financial information about its activities. The Statement of Net Assets includes all of the Program's assets and liabilities and provides information about the nature and amounts of investments in resources (assets) and the obligations to the Program's members and creditors (liabilities). It also provides the basis for computing rate of return, evaluating the capital structure of the Program and assessing the liquidity and financial flexibility of the Program. All of the year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets. This statement measures the success of the Program's operations over the year and can be used to determine whether the Program has successfully recovered all its costs through its premium and investment income, profitability and credit worthiness. The final required financial statement is the Statement of Cash Flows. The primary purpose of this statement is to provide information about the Program's cash receipts and cash payments throughout the year. These statements report cash receipts, cash payments and net changes in cash resulting from operations, investing, and financing activities.

The preparation of these financial statements requires the utilization of significant estimates, many of which will not be known for many years. Changes in estimates as well as the differences in actual results and estimated amounts will be included in the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets as these circumstances become known.

#### Financial Analysis of the Program

The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets report information in a way that the reader can determine if the Program is in a better financial position as a result of the year's activities. These statements report the net assets of the Program and changes in them. The net assets (difference between assets and liabilities) can be used to measure financial health or financial position. Over time, increases and decreases in the Program's net assets are one indicator as to whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating. There are other non-financial factors to consider, such as changes in economic conditions, healthcare costs, judicial environment, and new or changed government legislation.

#### **Condensed Statements of Net Assets**

	June 30, 2009	August 31, 2008		
Total assets	\$ 19,147,391	<u>\$ 16,347,941</u>		
Total liabilities	10,234,739	9,338,567		
Net assets	<b>\$</b> 8.912.652	\$ 7,009,374		

All of the Program's assets can be used for any lawful purpose consistent with the policies and guidelines established by the Managers of the Program. Total assets increased approximately 12% and consist primarily of cash, certificates of deposit, premiums and member deductibles receivable. Total liabilities increased approximately 10% due to increases in claims liabilities and accrued expenses. Net assets increased approximately 16% from the prior year.

### Condensed Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets

	10 Months Ended <u>June 30, 2009</u>	Year Ended August 31, 2008		
Total operating revenues	\$ 5,437,07 <u>5</u>	\$ 6,416,456		
Total operating expenses	<u>3,964,516</u>	5,625,366		
Non-operating income	430,719	687,737		
Change in net assets	\$ 1,903,278	<b>\$</b> 1,478,827		

Operating revenues decreased \$979,381 or 15% due primarily to the shorter measurement period and fluctuations in the number of members. Total operating expenses decreased \$1,660,850 or 30% again due primarily to the shorter measurement period. During fiscal 2009, the Program restructured the fee arrangement for how most of its legal defense services are provided as well as its excess insurance coverages from 2004 to present.

#### Financial Analysis of the Program (continued)

Effective January 1, 2009, the Program entered into a fixed monthly retainer fee arrangement with its primary legal firm. The fixed retainer fees are no longer allocated to Program case files, nor are they included in amounts recoverable under the Program's excess insurance contracts. As a result of these changes in risks and costs subject to the excess insurance contracts, the Program is to receive a refund of excess insurance premiums paid under excess insurance contracts from September 1, 2004 through July 1, 2009. This amount is reflected primarily as a reduction of incurred claims expense during fiscal 2009 and a receivable at June 30, 2009 of approximately \$965,000.

The Program's change in net assets for 2009 was an increase of \$1,903,278 primarily as a result of the changes described in the preceding paragraph.

#### Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide our members, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the Program's finances, as well as demonstrate accountability for funds the Program receives. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional information should be addressed to the Louisiana Sheriffs' Law Enforcement Program, 1175 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 or 225-343-8402.

# STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS JUNE 30, 2009 AND AUGUST 31, 2008

#### **ASSETS**

		2009	 2008
Cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents - segregated (Note 4) Investments Investments - segregated (Note 4) Excess insurance premiums receivable Premiums receivable from members Member deductibles receivable Accrued interest receivable Other receivable	\$	5,070,710 390,628 10,315,529 2,100,000 965,136 217,909 8,979 78,500	\$ 5,164,824 746,995 9,180,695 995,000 - 101,920 72,112 82,014 2,730
Furniture and equipment - net  Total Assets		19,147,391	 1,651
LIABILITIES AND NET	ASS	<u>SETS</u>	•
Liabilities: Unpaid claims liability Deposits held for others	\$	9,341,000 779,266	\$ 8,502,000 816,056
Accounts payable and accrued expenses  Due to Louisiana Sheriffs' Risk Management Program		114,473	 15,984 4,527
Total Liabilities		10,234,739	9,338,567
Net assets, unrestricted		8,912,652	 7,009,374
·		19,147,391	 16,347,941

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2008 TO JUNE 30, 2009 AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2008

·	2009	2008
OPERATING REVENUES		
Premium income	\$ 5,437,075	\$ 6,416,456
Total operating revenues	5,437,075	6,416,456
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Claims losses and claims adjustment expenses	2,717,723	4,060,932
Excess insurance	949,597	1,254,376
Louisiana Sheriffs' Association administration fees	110,541	124,642
Other general and administrative expenses	186,655	185,416
Total operating expenses	3,964,516	5,625,366
OPERATING INCOME	1,472,559	791,090
NON-OPERATING INCOME		
Investment income - net	430,719	687,737
Total non-operating income	430,719	687,737
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	1,903,278	1,478,827
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	7,009,374	5,530,547
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 8,912,652	\$ 7,009,374

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2008 TO JUNE 30, 2009 AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2008

•				
		2009		2008
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:				
Cash received from:	_	- 13/ 04/	•	
Member premiums collected	\$	5,116,346	\$	6,474,044
Member deductibles and other reimbursements collected		275,082		384,321
Deposits held for others		500,000		500,000
Cash paid for:				
Service providers		(1,146,652)		(612,487)
Claims and claims expenses		(2,848,338)		(4,575,734)
Deposits held for others		(536,790)		(673,779)
Net cash provided by operating activities	_	1,359,648		1,496,365
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:				
Investment income		400,322		658,812
Proceeds from the sale and maturity of investments		5,479,267		8,765,000
Purchases of investments		(7,685,191)		(8,601,927)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(1,805,602)		821,885
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:				
Net payments to Louisiana Sheriffs' Risk Management Program		(4,527)		_
Net transfers from Louisiana Sheriffs' Association		(4,321)		4,887
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		(4,527)		4,887
NET CHANGE IN CASH		(450,481)		2,323,137
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	_	5,911,819		3,588,682
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR		5,461,338	\$	5,911,819
Reconciliation of change in net assets to net cash				
provided by operating activities:				
Change in net assets	\$	1,903,278	\$	1,478,827
Investment income		(396,808)		(654,091)
Net change in fair value of investments		(12,618)		(1,247)
Net realized gains on sale of investments		(21,293)		(32,399)
Operating income		1,472,559		791,090
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net		•		•
cash provided by operating activities:				
Depreciation		1,651		1,524
Change in receivables		(1,015,262)		18,317
Change in prepaid expenses		-		1,254,376
Change in unpaid claims liability		839,000		(398,000)
Change in deposits held for others		(36,790)		(173,779)
Change in accounts payable and accrued expenses		98,490		2,837
•			,	2,051
Net cash provided by operating activities		1,359,648		1,496,365

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### (a) Organization

The Louisiana Sheriffs' Law Enforcement Program (the Program), and its related Articles of Association were created pursuant to the provisions of Louisiana R.S. 33:1481-1485 so that participating Louisiana Sheriffs could self-insure against public liability for their acts and acts of their deputies, employees, agents and officers. The daily operations of the Program are controlled by the Board of Managers, consisting of eight Sheriffs elected by a majority vote of the Sheriffs in each Congressional District. Managers are elected for staggered terms of four years and may be reelected to any number of successive terms.

During 2009, the Board of Managers changed the fiscal year end of the Program and the annual member coverage period from August 31st to June 30th of each year, in order to coincide with respective year ends of the majority of its sheriff members.

The Program's insurance administration is performed by a third party administrator, whose duties consist of development of the self-insurance fund, billing and collecting, securing excess or reinsurance coverage, adjudicating claims and other services as directed by the Board of Managers.

The Louisiana Sheriffs' Association (LSA) provides bookkeeping support as well as other general administrative functions for the Program.

The Program is affiliated through common membership and management control with the LSA, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Risk Management Program, and the Louisiana Sheriffs' Automobile Program. Although all of these entities are related parties, their various net assets are available only to the individual entity for its operations. For this reason, each entity is presented as a separate "stand alone" entity in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 10 and 14.

#### (b) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Program have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The Program applies Financial Accounting Standards Board pronouncements and Accounting Principles Board opinions issued on or before November 30, 1989, unless those pronouncements conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements, in which case, GASB prevails.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 1. <u>SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES</u> (continued)

#### (b) Basis of Accounting (continued)

The Program is a proprietary fund type and is presented as a business type activity. Proprietary fund types are used to account for governmental activities that are similar to those found in the private sector where the determination of operating income and changes in net assets is necessary or useful for sound financial administration. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) used for proprietary funds are generally those applicable to similar businesses in the private sector (accrual basis of accounting). Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized in the accounting period in which they are earned and expenses are recognized in the period incurred.

Since the business of the Program is essentially that of an insurance company having a business cycle greater than one year, the statements of net assets are not presented in a classified format.

#### (c) Investments

Investments are reported at estimated fair value. Fair value is based on the last reported sales price if available; if not available, fair value is based on estimated fair value. Realized and unrealized gains and losses on investments recorded at fair value are included in net investment income.

#### (d) Operating / Non-operating Revenue and Expenses

Operating revenues consist of member premiums as these revenues are generated from the Program's operations and are needed to carry out its statutory purpose. All expenses incurred for that purpose are classified as operating expenses. Investment income and other revenues and expenses which are ancillary to the Program's statutory purpose are classified as non-operating.

#### (e) Premium Income and Accounts Receivable

Premiums are recognized as income over the term of the policies as they become earned on a prorata basis. Any adjustments to annual premiums are considered to be a change in estimate and are recognized in the year they become known. The costs associated with new and renewal contracts as acquisition costs are immaterial to the financial statements and are expensed when incurred.

Premium and deductible receivables are comprised of amounts due from members and are considered to be fully collectible by management; therefore, no reserve for bad debts has been established.

#### (f) Statement of Cash Flows

For the purposes of the statements of cash flows, cash includes cash in demand deposit accounts with banks and money market funds.

#### (g) Excess Insurance

The Program uses excess insurance to reduce its exposure to large losses on insured events. The Program does not report risks covered by excess insurance as liabilities unless it is probable that those risks will not be covered by excess insurance carriers.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 1. <u>SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES</u> (continued)

#### (h) Unpaid Claims Liability

The Program establishes claims liabilities based on estimates of the ultimate cost of claims (including future claim adjustment expenses) that have been reported but not settled. The length of time for which such costs must be estimated varies depending on the coverage involved. Estimated amounts of excess insurance recoverable on unpaid claims are deducted from the liability for unpaid claims. Because actual claims costs depend on such complex factors as inflation, changes in doctrines of legal liability, and damage awards, the process used in computing claims liability does not necessarily result in an exact amount, particularly for coverages such as public liability. Claims liabilities are recomputed periodically using a variety of actuarial and statistical techniques to produce current estimates that reflect recent settlements, claims frequency, and other economic and social factors. A provision for inflation in the calculation of estimated future claims costs is implicit in the calculation because reliance is placed both on actual historical data that reflects past inflation and on other factors that are considered to be appropriate modifiers of past experience. Adjustments to claims liabilities are charged or credited to expense in the period in which they are made. The carrying amount of liabilities for claims losses and claims expenses is presented at the estimated claim amounts in the financial statements in Note 3.

#### (i) Income Taxes

The Program is exempt from federal income taxes under Sections 7701 and 115(1) of the Internal Revenue Code.

#### (i) Use of Estimates

Management of the Program has made a number of estimates and assumptions relating to the reporting of assets and liabilities to prepare these financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Actual results could differ from those estimates and assumptions. For example, significant estimates and assumptions are used in estimating its insurance liabilities, fair values of investments and accruals. If future experience differs materially for these estimates and assumptions, the financial statements could be affected.

#### (k) Net Assets

The net assets of the Program are available to pay the obligations of the Program or may be returned to participating members and are considered unrestricted. Should the Program exhaust its assets available to pay obligations, outstanding claim liabilities would become the responsibility of the respective members.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

#### 2. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

LSA provides services related to the general administrative functions of the Program, as well as rental of office space on a month-to-month basis. The fees for these services are based on a percentage of the Program's collected monthly premium from members. Total fees were approximately \$111,000 and \$125,000 for the period from September 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 and the year ended August 31, 2008, respectively.

At August 31, 2008, the Program had an amount due to the Louisiana Sheriffs' Risk Management Program of approximately \$4,500 for a member deductible collected on behalf of that program. The amount due was paid during 2009.

The Program provides insurance coverage for Sheriffs making up the Program's Board of Managers.

#### 3. CLAIMS EXPENSE AND UNPAID CLAIMS LIABILITY

The following represents changes in the Program's aggregate unpaid claims liabilities for the period from September 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 and the year ended August 31, 2008:

	2009	2008
Liability for unpaid losses at beginning of period	\$ 8,502,000	\$ 8,900,000
Net incurred related to:		
Current year	2,811,226	3,975,367
Prior years	666,893	85,565
Adjustment for excess coverage	<u>(760,396)</u>	
Total incurred	2,717,723	4,060,932
Net paid related to:		
Current year	358,959	697,493
Prior years	2,280,160	3,761,439
Adjustment for excess coverage	(760,396)	
Total paid	1,878,723	4,458,932
Liability for unpaid losses at end of period	\$ <u>9,341,000</u>	<u>\$ 8,502,000</u>

The Program provides risk coverage to members on a claim-made basis. The Program's claims payable have been discounted at June 30, 2009 and August 31, 2008, based on the Program's anticipated payout patterns and a discount rate assumption of 4.0% and 4.5%, respectively, which management expects to approximate the investment earnings over the payout period. The effect of the reserve discounts was approximately \$774,000 and \$828,000 at June 30, 2009 and August 31, 2008, respectively.

#### **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

#### 3. CLAIMS EXPENSE AND UNPAID CLAIMS LIABILITY (continued)

Effective January 1, 2009, the Program entered into a fixed monthly retainer fee arrangement with its primary legal firm. The fixed retainer fees are no longer allocated to Program case files, nor are they included in amounts recoverable under the Program's excess insurance contracts. As a result of these changes in risks and costs subject to the excess insurance contracts, the Program is to receive a refund of excess insurance premiums paid under excess insurance contracts from September 1, 2004 through July 1, 2009. Approximately \$760,000 is reflected as a reduction of incurred claims expense during fiscal 2009 and is included in the excess insurance premiums receivable at June 30, 2009. See Note 5. This change in coverage is reflected in the above table as "adjustment for excess coverage."

The Program experienced overall unfavorable development on unpaid claims liabilities established in prior years. In establishing reserves, management considers facts currently known, historical claims information, industry average loss data, and the present state of laws and coverage litigation. However, the process of establishing loss reserves is a complex and imprecise science that reflects significant judgmental factors. Management believes that the aggregate loss reserves at June 30, 2009 are adequate to cover claims for losses that have occurred. Management can give no assurance that the ultimate claims incurred through June 30, 2009 will not vary from the above estimates, and such difference could be significant.

#### **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

#### 4. CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS

At June 30, 2009, certificates of deposit and investment securities of \$12,415,529 and cash and cash equivalents of \$5,461,338, consisted of the following:

						Weighted-
				Percentage		Average
		Estimated		of	Standard & Poors	Maturity
	 Cost		Fair Value	Investments	Rating	(Years)
Negotiable certificates of deposit	\$ 11,825,000	s	11,825,000	95.24%	Not rated	1.05
U.S. Government debt obligation	118,200		119,880	0 96%	Not rated	25.23
Corporate debt obligation	300,000		293,649	2.37%	AAA	9.67
Bond mutual fund	225,000		177,000	1.43%	AAA	(1)
Subtotal - amount reported as investments	 12,468,200		12,415,529	100.00%		
Money market funds	3,928,515		3,928,515		Not rated	
Cash in demand deposit accounts	 1,532,823		1,532,823			
Subtotal - amount reported as cash	 5,461,338	_	5,461,338			
Total cash and investments	\$ 17,929,538	\$	17,876,867			

<sup>(1)</sup> Weighted-average maturity is not applicable to investments in mutual funds.

#### **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

#### 4. CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS (continued)

At August 31, 2008, certificates of deposit and investment securities of \$10,175,695 and cash and cash equivalents of \$5,911,819, consisted of the following:

							Weighted-
					Percentage		Average
			J	Estimated	of	Standard & Poors	Maturity
	<u></u>	Cost	I	Fair Value	Investments	Rating	(Years)
Negotiable certificates of deposit	s	9,140,000	s	9,140,000	89.80%	Not rated	0.88
U.S. Government debt obligation		118,200		109,483	1.10%	Not rated	26.06
Corporate debt obligation		300,000		292,611	2.90%	AAA	10.5
Bond mutual funds	. •	457,799		454,501	4.50%	(1)	
		225,000		179,100	1.70%	AAA	
		682,799		633,601	6.20%		(2)
Subtotal - amount reported as investments		10,240,999		10,175,695	100.00%		
. Money market funds		5,031,761		5,031,761		Not rated	
Cash in demand deposit accounts		880,058		880,058			
Subtotal - amount reported as cash		5,911,819		5,911,819			
Total cash and investments	\$	16,152,818	<u>s</u>	16,087,514			

<sup>(1)</sup> Substantially invested in U.S government securities; quality ratings are not required for U.S. government securities.

At June 30, 2009 and August 31, 2008, the Program has cash equivalents (book balances) totaling \$3,928,515 and \$5,031,761, respectively, which are held in an investment brokerage account. This balance represents an investment in money market funds, that because of their relative liquidity, are reported as cash equivalents on the statements of net assets.

<sup>(2)</sup> Weighted-average maturity is not applicable to investments in mutual funds.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 4. CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS (continued)

The Program has, at the request of its excess insurance carrier, invested additional premiums collected from members electing to purchase higher specific excess of loss coverage limits in a segregated investment brokerage account. At June 30, 2009 and August 31, 2008, the Program has \$2,490,628 and \$1,741,995, respectively, of assets invested in an investment brokerage account segregated for this purpose.

#### Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk for cash and cash equivalents (demand deposit accounts and money market funds) is the risk that in the event of financial institution failure, the Program's deposits may not be returned to them. The Program has no custodial credit risk with respect to demand deposit accounts at June 30, 2009. The Program's investments in money market funds are not exposed to custodial credit risk because their existence is not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form.

For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Program will not be able to recover the value of its investments that in the possession of an outside party. At June 30, 2009 and August 31, 2008, the Program's investments in negotiable certificates of deposit, government debt obligations, and corporate debt obligations are uninsured on the performance of the custodian and are exposed to custodial credit risk because they are held by a counterparty. The Program's investments in bond mutual funds are not exposed to custodial credit risk because their existence is not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form.

#### Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will be unable to meet its obligations. The Program minimizes this risk by adhering to an investment strategy designed to achieve a conservative risk/return characteristic by investing a significant portion of its investment portfolio in securities directly issued by, guaranteed or insured by the U.S. Government.

#### Concentration of Credit Risk

Concentration of credit risk relates to the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of the Program's investment in a single issuer. At June 30, 2009 and August 31, 2008, there were no investments in any one issuer that represented 5% or more of total investments.

#### Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the estimated fair value of an investment. The Program measures and monitors the weighted-average maturity of the fixed income securities portfolio to manage exposure to interest rate risk. This includes the weighted-average maturities of the total fixed income portfolio, individual securities, as well as categories of securities held by the Program.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 4. CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS (continued)

The scheduled contractual maturities of investments in debt obligations and certificates of deposit held at June 30, 2009 are shown below. Expected maturities will differ from contractual maturities because borrowers may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call or payment penalties.

	_A 	mortized Cost	Estimated Fair Value	
Due in one year Due after one year through five years Due after five years through ten years	\$	6,505,000 5,320,000	\$	6,505,000 5,320,000
Due after ten years	_	418,200		413,529
	<u>\$_</u>	12,243,200	<u>\$</u>	12,238,529

Net investment income for the period from September 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 and the year ended August 31, 2008 consists of the following:

	 2009	_	2008
Interest and dividend income Realized gains – net Unrealized gains arising during the year – net	\$ 396,808 21,293 12,618	\$	654,091 32,399 1,247
	\$ 430,719	\$_	<b>687,737</b>

#### 5. EXCESS INSURANCE POLICY COVERAGE

Since the fiscal year 2006, the Program has obtained excess insurance coverage from Princeton Excess & Surplus Lines Insurance Company, which is rated "A" Excellent by A.M. Best Company (as of July 20, 2009). The Program retains the first \$100,000 of loss exposure. Participating members may elect to purchase specific excess of loss coverage limits of \$900,000, \$1,900,000, or \$2,900,000. The specific excess of loss insurance policy has a \$10,000,000 aggregate limit for all members. Additionally, the Program has assumed additional risk (corridor deductible) on both a per occurrence and aggregate basis in the amount of \$1,000,000 per policy year.

For prior years, the Program also obtained specific excess insurance coverage with differing specific and aggregate loss limits from other excess insurance carriers.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 5. EXCESS INSURANCE POLICY COVERAGE (continued)

These excess contracts do not relieve the Program from its obligations to members. Failure of excess carriers to honor their obligations could result in losses to the Program. The Program evaluates the financial condition of its excess carriers and monitors concentrations of credit risk arising from similar geographic regions, activities, or economic characteristics of the excess carrier to minimize its exposure to significant losses from excess carrier insolvencies.

The Program amended its excess insurance contract effective July 1, 2009 to reflect the change in its member coverage period end to June 30<sup>th</sup>. The excess carrier refunded premium to the Program in the amount of \$204,740 as a result of this change, which is included in "excess premiums receivable" in the Program's financial statements at June 30, 2009. The Program renewed its excess insurance coverage, with similar terms and conditions, effective July 1, 2009. Additionally, as disclosed in Note 3, changes in the legal management fee structure affected excess coverage limits and resulted in return premiums of \$760,639, which is also included in "excess premiums receivable" at June 30, 2009.

#### 6. **DEPOSITS HELD FOR OTHERS**

The Program provides bookkeeping and other general administrative services to one parish sheriffs group who operates a self-funded insurance program. The Program does not bear insurance risk for this group and, accordingly, excludes the activity of this group from premiums and claims expense. The group deposits funds with the Program, and the Program disburses the funds according to the group's financial obligations. The Program is paid an administrative fee for these services, which is included as a reduction of other general and administrative expenses in the statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net assets. At June 30, 2009 and August 31, 2008, deposits held by the Program for this group totaled \$779,266 and \$816,056, respectively.

#### 7. **CONTINGENCIES**

As a normal course of business, the Program becomes involved in various insurance related claims and legal actions. Management of the Program establishes estimated liabilities for reported and unreported contingencies. Management believes that the outcome of claims and any related legal proceedings will be provided for by the estimated insurance liabilities and will not have a material adverse effect on the Program's financial position or results of operations.



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# Report on Internal Control Over Financial Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards

Board of Managers Louisiana Sheriffs' Law Enforcement Program Baton Rouge, Louisiana

We have audited the financial statements of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Law Enforcement Program as of June 30, 2009 and for the period from September 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, and have issued our report thereon dated December 9, 2009. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

#### Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Louisiana Sheriffs' Law Enforcement Program's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Law Enforcement Program's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Law Enforcement Program's internal control over financial reporting.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the entity's financial statements that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs to be a significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting [2009-1].

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statements will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We consider the significant deficiency described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs to be a material weakness [2009-1]. Our responsibility under current audit standards requires us to communicate this issue to the Board of Managers.

#### Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Louisiana Sheriffs' Law Enforcement Program's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

This report is intended for the information of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Law Enforcement Program, management, and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. However, under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Legislative Auditor as a public document.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana December 9, 2009

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### SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2008 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2009

#### A. SUMMARY OF AUDITORS' RESULTS

- (1) The auditors' report expressed an unqualified opinion on the financial statements of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Law Enforcement Program (the Program) as of June 30, 2009 and for the period from September 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.
- (2) There is a significant deficiency relating to the audit of the financial statements, which is reported in section B on this schedule. This significant deficiency [2009-1] is considered a material weakness.

#### B. <u>FINDINGS - FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT</u>

#### **MATERIAL WEAKNESS**

#### 2009-1 Design of Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Condition: As part of the audit process, the auditors have assisted management in drafting the financial statements and related notes for year-end financial reporting. Additionally, the auditor has proposed several adjusting journal entries to adjust the books and records of the Program, and these adjustments have been reviewed and accepted by management. In the auditors' judgment, the number and magnitude of adjustments proposed, either individually or in the aggregate, indicate matters that do have a significant effect on the Program's financial reporting process. Because the involvement of the auditor is so key to the financial reporting process, this is an indication that the internal control over financial reporting of the Program is a material weakness as defined by auditing standards.

Criteria: Internal controls over financial reporting should be adequately designed and implemented to minimize reliance on the auditor and to enable the Program to prepare its financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Effect: Significant adjusting journal entries were proposed to allow the financial statements to accurately reflect the Program's financial position, operations and cash flows.

Recommendation: Small entities with few internal accounting personnel or resources typically have difficulty establishing formal internal control procedures to ensure accurate financial reporting. While cost effectiveness certainly needs to be considered, we recommend that management evaluate the need to set up controls by hiring additional resources to mitigate its financial reporting risk.

Management's response: We understand and concur with the finding. We will work closely with our auditor to further understand the risks and consider the need to dedicate additional resources for the documentation of internal controls and preparation of our financial statements.

#### SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS FOR THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2008 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2009

#### **MATERIAL WEAKNESS**

#### 2008-1 Design of Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Condition: As part of the audit process, the auditors have assisted management in drafting the financial statements and related notes for year-end financial reporting. Additionally, the auditor has proposed several adjusting journal entries to adjust the books and records of the Program, and these adjustments have been reviewed and accepted by management. In the auditors' judgment, the number and magnitude of adjustments proposed, either individually or in the aggregate, indicate matters that do have a significant effect on the Program's financial reporting process. Because the involvement of the auditor is so key to the financial reporting process, this is an indication that the internal control over financial reporting of the Program is a material weakness as defined by auditing standards.

Criteria: Internal controls over financial reporting should be adequately designed and implemented to minimize reliance on the auditor and to enable the Program to prepare its financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Effect: Significant adjusting journal entries were proposed to allow the financial statements to accurately reflect the Program's financial position, operations and cash flows.

Recommendation: Small entities with few internal accounting personnel or resources typically have difficulty establishing formal internal control procedures to ensure accurate financial reporting. While cost effectiveness certainly needs to be considered, we recommend that management evaluate the need to set up controls by hiring additional resources to mitigate its financial reporting risk.

Management's response: We understand and concur with the finding. We will work closely with our auditor to further understand the risks and consider the need to dedicate additional resources for the documentation of internal controls and preparation of our financial statements.

Current status: This matter remains unresolved. See finding 2009-1.